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REPORT ON PROJECT ACTIVITIES
September 1, 1980 - September 30, 1980

This report is produced by the American Friends Service Committee to provide public officials and criminal justice system personnel with information on our current work with the families of prisoners in Essex County correctional facilities. For further information about any aspect of our work, please contact Wray Bailey or Bonnie Kerness at (201) 643-3079.

Since the beginning of the Family Stabilization Project in April, 1978, we have provided services to 401 client families. (160) of the cases were referred from Essex County Jail and 159 from Caldwell Correctional Center. (82) additional cases were client self-referrals or referrals from other community agencies. We have completed (323) cases, (131) from Essex County Jail and (119) from Caldwell. We closed (73) cases which were referrals from other agencies. We are still working with (63) remaining client families.

Since the beginning of the project in April, 1978, until September 30, 1980, Family Stabilization Project staff have handled (206) short term cases, (122) medium term cases and (55) long term cases. Since September 1, 1980, we have opened (18) additional cases which have not yet been classified.

From the moment a person is arrested, his life is turned inside out. If the defendant does not have ample financial resources, he cannot secure his freedom. While incarcerated he is separated from his family, isolated from the community and is unable to return to work.

A workable alternative to incarceration is a Community Bail Bond Fund. It is a way in which the defendant can spend weeks and months before his trial living a stable life. Fortunately for Mr. E, a self-employed father of two children, the JTHH Community Bail Bond Fund was able to assist him. Mr. E's concerned son came to the Newark Justice Program office and explained that Mr. E. was being held in jail on a charge of theft. His bail was \$100.00 which was within the Bail Bond fund's guidelines. Mr. E's family contributed 1/3 of the bail and the Community Bail Bond Fund put up the remaining 2/3s. Bail was then posted by a staff member and Mr. E. was released from jail that same night.

Because there was a Community Bail Bond Fund, Mr. E. was able to resume working and he and his family were saved the pain of a long and arduous separation. This is one of the major thrusts this year for Justice The Helping Hand. The group has also invited the Parole Board to a community-wide conference sponsored jointly by JTHH and the American Friends Service Newark Justice Program.

Because of the new parole legislation, office staff has been receiving many telephone



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